4 . J. Garrett Underhill -- Shot Dead

The day after the Kennedy assassination, Gary Underhill left Washington in a hurry. Late that evening he showed up at the home of Robert and Charlene Fitzsimmons, friends of his in New York. He told Charlene he knew who was responsible for the assassination, and said he was afraid for his life. Less than six months later Underhill was found shot to death in his Washington apartment; the coroner ruled it a suicide. He was 4 8.

Jo Garrett Underhill was a Harvard man, an intelligence agent during World War II and

Underhill's body was discovered on a bed in his Washingto apartment on May 8, 1964 on May 8, by Asher Brynes, a frie and former New Republic contributing editor of the New Republic Brynes said he obviously had been dead for some days, from a bullet wound in the head. He said the pistol was under the body on the left side, and, knowing that Underhill was right-handed, noticed particularly that he had been shot behind the left ear, with the bullet traveling from left to right throu the head. A medical student, who was present with Brynes at the morgue, made the same observations about the wound.

Records of the investigation by the District of Columbia homicide squad are confidential. Deputy Police Chief John B. Layton did say, however, that an automatic pistol had been found in Underhill's right hand -- contrary to the observati of Brynes, who discovered the body -- and that the coroner had performed an autopsy and ruled it a suicide.

Well-known in the Pentagon, where he was on a first-name basis with many of the top brass, Underhill also had personal friendships with a number of ranking CIA officials. Although it was not clear if he was officially employed by the CIA, he did work form them periodically on assignment. Friends said he was a brilliant if sometimes erratic tactician, and that the government agencies considered him valuable as a consultant, if not as a planner.

When Underhill made his breathless trip to New York on November 23, 1963, he told Charlene Fitzsimmons he had learned that the Far East section of the CIA was responsible for the assassination. Kennedy had gotten wind of [illegible] in the Far East. Underhill

his distress at what he considers police bungling of the investigation, accepts the [redacted] suicide theory. "If you could not believe the police were so stupid, [redacted] you might think there was some other reason for it." Underhill, according to friends, had [redacted] marital and financial troubles which might have driven him to suicide. On the other hand, the medical student who viewed the body said that considering the angle of the wound it was next to impossible for it to have been a suicide. [redacted]

[redacted]

Whether Underhill [redacted] actually possessed any hard information of a CIA-Far East plot to kill Kennedy is a matter of speculation. Certainly he was in a position to